

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method of servicing content for delivery to a client device, said
5 method comprising:

identifying a type of service to be performed on an item of content, said
item of content identified in a request from said client device, said request
received at a portal;

identifying a provider of said type of service; and

10 providing information for establishing communication between said
client device and said provider, wherein communication with said client
device is redirected from said portal to said provider.

2. The method of Claim 1 further comprising:

15 sending said information to said client device, wherein said client
device and said provider transparently establish communication.

3. The method of Claim 1 further comprising:

20 identifying a source of said item of content, wherein data for said item of
content is streamed to said provider from said source and wherein service
result data is streamed from said provider to said client device.

4. The method of Claim 1 wherein said type of service is identified
according to information provided in said request from said client device.

25 5. The method of Claim 1 wherein a source of said item of content
is identified according to information provided in said request from said client
device.

30 6. The method of Claim 1 wherein said service is continuously
executed by said provider.

7. The method of Claim 1 wherein startup of said service occurs in
response to said client device establishing communication with said provider.

35 8. The method of Claim 1 further comprising:
causing startup of said service subsequent to identifying said provider
and before said client device establishes communication with said provider.

9. A method of servicing content for streaming to a client device, said method comprising:

identifying a type of service to be performed on an item of content, said item of content identified in a request from said client device, said request received at a portal;

5 identifying a provider of said type of service;
providing information for establishing communication between said client device and said provider, wherein communication with said client device is redirected from said portal to said provider, wherein data for said 10 item of content is streamed to said provider from a source of said item of content and wherein service result data is streamed from said provider to said client device.

10. The method of Claim 9 further comprising:

15 sending said information to said client device, wherein said client device and said provider transparently establish communication.

11. The method of Claim 9 wherein said service is continuously executed by said provider.

20 12. The method of Claim 9 wherein startup of said service occurs in response to said client device establishing communication with said provider.

13. The method of Claim 9 further comprising:

25 causing startup of said service subsequent to identifying said provider and before said client device establishes communication with said provider.

14. A system for providing content to a client device, said system comprising:

30 a service manager for receiving a request for an item of content from a portal, wherein said portal received said request from said client device, said service manager also for selecting a provider of a type of service to be performed on said item of content, wherein communication with said client device is redirected from said portal to said provider such that communication 35 with said client device continues via said provider, said provider for performing said service on said item of content and for forwarding service result content to said client device.

15. The system of Claim 14 wherein said service manager sends information identifying said provider to said client device via said portal.

16. The system of Claim 14 wherein said service manager sends 5 information identifying said provider directly to said client device, bypassing said portal.

17. The system of Claim 14 wherein a source of said item of content 10 is identified according to information provided in said request received from said client device.

18. The system of Claim 14 wherein a source of said item of content is identified by one of said portal, said service manager and said provider.

15 19. The system of Claim 14 wherein said item of content is streamed from a content source to said provider.

20. The system of Claim 14 wherein said type of service is identified according to information provided in said request received from said client 20 device.

21. The system of Claim 14 wherein said type of service is identified by one of said portal and said service manager.

25 22. The system of Claim 14 wherein said service is continuously available from said provider.

23. The system of Claim 14 wherein said service is started up and executed in response to said client device establishing communication with 30 said provider.

24. The system of Claim 14 wherein said service manager directs said provider to start up said service upon selection of said provider.

35 25. A system for streaming content to a client device, said system comprising:

a service manager for receiving a request for an item of content from a portal, wherein said portal received said request from said client device, said service manager also for selecting a provider of a type of service to be

performed on said item of content, wherein communication with said client device is redirected from said portal to said provider such that communication with said client device continues via said provider, wherein said item of content is streamed from a content source to said provider, said provider for 5 performing said service on said item of content and for streaming service result content to said client device.

26. The system of Claim 25 wherein said service manager sends information identifying said provider to said client device via said portal.

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27. The system of Claim 25 wherein said service manager sends information identifying said provider directly to said client device, bypassing said portal.

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28. A computer-readable medium having computer-readable program code embodied therein for causing a computer system to perform a method for servicing content for delivery to a client device, said method comprising:

identifying a type of service to be performed on an item of content, said item of content identified in a request from said client device, said request 20 received at a portal;

identifying a provider of said type of service; and

providing information for establishing communication between said client device and said provider, wherein communication with said client device is redirected from said portal to said provider.

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29. The computer-readable medium of Claim 28 wherein said computer-readable program code embodied therein causes said computer system to perform said method further comprising:

sending said information to said client device, wherein said client 30 device and said provider transparently establish communication.

30. The computer-readable medium of Claim 28 wherein said computer-readable program code embodied therein causes said computer system to perform said method further comprising:

35 identifying a source of said item of content, wherein data for said item of content is streamed to said provider from said source and wherein service result data is streamed from said provider to said client device.

31. The computer-readable medium of Claim 28 wherein said type of service is identified according to information provided in said request from said client device.

5 32. The computer-readable medium of Claim 28 wherein a source of said item of content is identified according to information provided in said request from said client device.

10 33. The computer-readable medium of Claim 28 wherein said service is continuously executed by said provider.

34. The computer-readable medium of Claim 28 wherein startup of said service occurs in response to said client device establishing communication with said provider.

15 35. The computer-readable medium of Claim 28 wherein said computer-readable program code embodied therein causes said computer system to perform said method further comprising:

20 causing startup of said service subsequent to identifying said provider and before said client device establishes communication with said provider.

36. A computer-readable medium having computer-readable program code embodied therein for causing a computer system to perform a method for servicing content for streaming to a client device, said method comprising:

25 identifying a type of service to be performed on an item of content, said item of content identified in a request from said client device, said request received at a portal;

identifying a provider of said type of service;

30 providing information for establishing communication between said client device and said provider, wherein communication with said client device is redirected from said portal to said provider, wherein data for said item of content is streamed to said provider from a source of said item of content and wherein service result data is streamed from said provider to said client device.

37. The computer-readable medium of Claim 36 wherein said computer-readable program code embodied therein causes said computer system to perform said method further comprising:

- 5 sending said information to said client device, wherein said client device and said provider transparently establish communication.

38. The computer-readable medium of Claim 36 wherein said service is continuously executed by said provider.

10 39. The computer-readable medium of Claim 36 wherein startup of said service occurs in response to said client device establishing communication with said provider.

15 40. The computer-readable medium of Claim 36 wherein said computer-readable program code embodied therein causes said computer system to perform said method further comprising:
causing startup of said service subsequent to identifying said provider and before said client device establishes communication with said provider.